11/4/69

Mr. John Mitchell, Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. Attn Mr. Sells, Criminal Division

Dear Sir,

In the absence of Mr. Fensterwald, I am writing you directly.

Today I received a letter dated October 31, from the Archivist of the United States. I had asked him to take a picture of Warren Commission Exhibit 399, a bullet, on a scale that will disclose its present weight. He declined for reasons I regard as spurious and have little doubt I'll be able to prove it when the proper occasion comes. As an alternative, I asked for its weight at identifiable times in official hands, such as when it was received in Washington at the FBI laboratory, before and after the various tests were made on it, etc. At his suggestion I make this request of your department.

A number of items of evidence are recorded and conveyed by receipts copies of which are in my possession. The Archives persists in failing to respond to my requests, which I regard as entirely proper. In Warren Commission No. 371, a receipt to Admiral George G. Burkley by Robert I. Bouck of the Secret Service, one item is "One receipt from FBI for a missile recovered during the examination of the body." I respectfully ask your department for a copy of this receipt and any related papers. Also, if any of these various documents listed in the receipt to Admiral Burkley are filed in your department, which the files of the Warren Commission leads me to believe is the case, I should like to obtain copies of them.

In his letter Dr. Rhoads refuses to "furnish any information concerning the autopsy X-rays and photographs beyond that which is available in" the letter agreement between the Kennedy family and the General Services Administration and the 1968 Panel Review, on the ground that it "might tend to encourage morbid curiosity concerning the autopsy materials". This was in response to my request for a copy of a bookkeeping record. In any event, I regard this as a clear violation of the Freedom of Information Act and accordingly call it to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg